



Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action...

EARTH ACTION HEROES  
HAZARDOUS WASTE WARRIORS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROTECTING OUR VALUABLE  
NATURAL RESOURCES

The City was recently awarded the Environmental Stewardship Award from the Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association for its efforts in environmental sustainability. These efforts have included installation of rainwater gardens throughout the city, pictured above, prairie restoration and maintenance, and much more.

The award is given annually to groups or individuals in Public Works who exhibit a passion for conserving and protecting the environment.

For more information about the City's efforts to promote sustainability, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SUSTAINABILITY.

REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE  
USE SAFER PRODUCTS



You can reduce exposure to harmful chemicals at home by purchasing fewer hazardous household products. Follow these green cleaning tips:

- Look for products that list all ingredients on the label. Generally, fewer ingredients are better.
- Use a multipurpose cleaner rather than buying many specialty cleaners.
- Try using products such as baking soda, white vinegar and lemon juice to clean.
- Choose products that are made from plant-based materials like citrus, vegetables, herbs or pine oils.
- Choose products that have low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs are toxic chemicals that are released into the air.
- When possible, choose chlorine-free products and water-based glues, adhesives and paints.

For more helpful tips, visit [www.rethinkrecycling.com](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com).

RECYCLE YOUR PAPER

Recycling reduces greenhouse gases that are harmful to the environment. In one year, recycling in Minnesota reduces emissions equal to taking a million cars off the road. Please do your part and recycle this Briefing after reading.

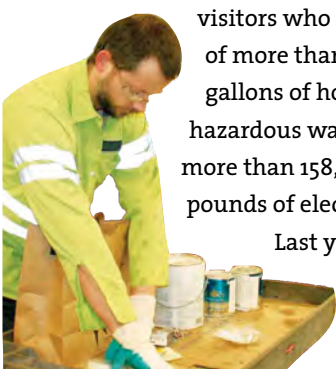


It may be February, but spring, a time for renewal and cleaning house, will be here before we know it. Perhaps you still have leftover gas or oil from your lawn mower, or half-empty cans of paint or solvents from last year still lying around? If you can't reuse them, you don't have to go far to recycle them.

Bring your old paint and any other hazardous materials taking up space in your home to the **South Hennepin County Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street**, where you will find Chemical Technicians Richard Jones, Nanette Ewald and David Guenther, pictured right, ready to safely dispose of them for you. Hennepin County's drop-off facility in Bloomington is a one-stop depot for recyclables, as well as "problem materials" including paint, fluorescent lamps and mercury thermostats. Each month, the center sees more than 5,000

visitors who dispose of more than 20,000 gallons of household hazardous waste and more than 158,000 pounds of electronics.

Last year, the county added CDs,



DVDs and other electronic media to its expanding list of accepted materials.

According to Supervisor of Household Hazardous Waste and Problem Materials Amy Roering, in 2011, electronics were the most popular drop-off item, followed by latex paint.

"Safe disposal of household hazardous waste is a high priority for safeguarding our quality of life, and we are heartened to see that the number of people dropping off materials in Bloomington has nearly doubled since 2000 and continues to grow every year," Roering said.

The facility opened in 1993 and was expanded to 25,000 square feet in 2004 to accommodate growing customer demand. Two county employees and nine contract employees work receiving waste and managing operations.

"Customers who come here receive personal service at their vehicles from highly skilled employees who ensure that each material is collected safely and shipped off-site for recycling or proper disposal," Roering said.



Some materials are not shipped off to be recycled. An almost full can of paint, for example, may be placed on a "free items" shelf at the center, where customers can take what they need.

Materials accepted at the facility include automotive fluids, batteries, electronics cleaners, mercury-containing items, pool chemicals, paint and much more. Appliances are accepted for a fee. For a complete list of accepted items visit the City's website. Hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The facility is closed on Sundays, Mondays and holidays. For more information, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RECYCLING CENTER.

LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD

2012 CITYWIDE CURBSIDE CLEANUP

GET READY TO DECLUTTER!

The Citywide Curbside Cleanup is right around the corner. Be sure you're prepared by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day.

Seniors and disabled residents should contact their Neighborhood Watch block captains or call Human Services, 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740, for assistance. Requests for assistance must be made at least one week in advance. See the April Briefing for more details.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: CLEANUP.

2012 CLEAN UP SCHEDULE

East of Portland	Saturday, April 14
Portland to Penn	Saturday, April 21
Penn to France	Saturday, April 28
France to Normandale	Saturday, May 5
West of Normandale	Saturday, May 12



To receive Curbside schedule reminders, scan the QR code below or visit the City's website, click on [E-Subscribe](#), and sign up for e-mail updates.



RESOLVE TO REUSE AND RECYCLE IN 2012  
DO YOUR PART TO REDUCE WASTE

Did you know the average person in the Twin Cities throws away an average of six pounds of garbage a day? That's enough to fill Target Field more than 25 times each year. Here are some steps you can take to reduce your waste:

- Look for less packaging and avoid disposables. At the grocery store, buy in bulk and bring your own bags.

- Compost your fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and egg shells in a backyard compost bin.
- Borrow, rent and shop used. Before you run to the store to buy a new item, think about how much you will use it.
- Purchase a reusable mug. Have coffee every day? Bring a reusable mug with you to the coffee shop.

- Sell, give away or donate usable clothing and household goods.
- For more information, visit [www.rethinkrecycling.com](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com).

